

HOUSE RESOLUTION 399

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Joseph Burt Scott.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Joseph Burt Scott, who distinguished himself as a talented athlete during his career in baseball and the Negro Leagues from 1936 to 1956; and

WHEREAS, a hustling outfielder and first baseman, Mr. Scott played for the New York Black Yankees, the Pittsburgh Crawfords, the Chicago American Giants, the Memphis Red Sox, and the Zulu Cannibal Giants; and

WHEREAS, possessing a lethal swing, Joseph Scott accomplished a .714 batting average during his 1942 season with the Memphis Red Sox, which was cut short when he entered the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, his many other baseball achievements include winning the 1937 Tilden Tech City Championship and the 1940 Chicago Industrial League Championship, earning inclusion in the Tilden Tech Hall of Fame, playing in an all-star game against Joe DiMaggio, and being the first African-American player to play at Wrigley Field in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, one of few Negro League players remaining, Mr. Scott's experiences as a baseball player are the focus of the television documentary "Joe Scott: Memories of the Negro Leagues"; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the notoriety his baseball talents earned him, Joseph Scott still receives numerous letters from fans around the world; these talents also garnered him

certificates of recognition from the University of Memphis College of Arts and Sciences and from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, New York, and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, upon retiring from baseball in 1956, Mr. Scott became a Teamsters truck driver, a job he performed with the utmost integrity and probity for twenty-seven years; he has also been active in his community as a little league coach and a speaker for schools, radio programs, and television programs; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Joseph Scott's unswerving commitment to excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor Joseph Burt Scott for his admirable tenure in the Negro Leagues, commend his supernal athletic talents, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.